

Dead Orthodoxy

Disputing Dead Orthodoxy

Malachi 4:4-6 ESV

Review of Covenants

“A covenant is an enduring agreement which defines a relationship between two parties involving a solemn, binding obligation(s) specified on the part of at least one of the parties toward the other, made by oath under threat of divine curse, and ratified by a visual ritual.”

Malachi 2:10 ESV

What does covenant faithfulness look like?

“The occasion for contract is largely the benefits that each party expects. Thus for a satisfactory sum one party agrees to supply a specified quantity of some desired product for the other party. The contract is characteristically thing-oriented. The covenant is person-oriented and, theologically speaking, arises, not with benefits as the chief barter item, but out of a desire for a measure of intimacy. In a contract negotiation an arrival at a mutually satisfactory agreement is important. In a covenant, negotiation has no place. The greater in grace offers his help; the initiative is his. ‘Gift’ is descriptive of covenant as ‘negotiation’ is descriptive of contract. Both covenant and contract have obligations, but with this difference. The conditions set out in a contract require fulfillment of terms; the obligation of a covenant is one of loyalty. ... Of all the differences between covenant and contract, the place in covenant of personal loyalty is the most striking.”

“At the heart of covenant, then, is a relationship between parties characterised by faithfulness and loyalty in love.”

Malachi 2:5-6 ESV

Yet, covenant faithfulness is unattainable

Malachi 3:7 ESV

- 1) The first is the problem of guilt because of sin.

Malachi 3:2 ESV

- 2) The other problem is rebellious hearts

Malachi 3:14 ESV

Christ makes covenant faithfulness possible

Grudem on the New Covenant: "A covenant in which Christ's atoning death covers all of the believer's sins and the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to fulfill the righteous demands of the law."

Guilt of sin

[5] "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Hebrews 9:22-26 ESV

A Rebellious Heart

[4] "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

John 3:36 ESV, 1 John 5:1-3 ESV, Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV

Living Faith versus Dead Orthodoxy

Three aspects - relationship, obligations, consequences

2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 ESV

Living faith in the new covenant, as opposed to dead orthodoxy, is demonstrated by faithful and loyal love for Jesus and his work on our behalf, an ever-increasing obedience to his commands, and an understanding and anticipation of his return.